(c) whether the Government have any programme to bring about prohibition of the consumption of alcohol under Article 47 of the Constitution;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Joint Venture for Five-Star Hospital

2407. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has awarded a plot of prime land measuring 15 acres to Indraprastha Hospital Corporation Limited for a token amount of Rupee 1 and entered into an agreement for establishing a joint-venture five-star hospital in the Capital;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the joint venture laid down;

(c) the extent to which the terms of the agreement are being implemented and the benefit being accrued to the common public;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the allegations of corruption and malpractices levelled against the management of the said hospital;

(e) if so, whether Government are considering to take over the management of the said hospital; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) As per the agreement with the Administrator, Delhi and M/s Apollo Hospital, it was decided to jointly promote and to register a Public Limited Company under the name of Indraprastha Medical Corporation Ltd", with the objective of setting up a hospital in Delhi. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has acquired 26% equity share of the Apollo Hospital. An area of 15 acres was also placed at the disposal of the joint venture company at concessional rates of construction of the building. It was agreed among other things that the Corporation will made available not less than one third of total capacity of 600 beds for the poor and also treat 40% poor out patients free. This Hospital has yet to provide these facilities to the public.

(d) No such report has been received in the Ministry.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Building on Rent for CGHS Dispensary

2408. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per policy of CGHS, the advertisements for hiring building on rent for opening of CGHS dispensary in any area is given in newspapers first and the dispensaries are sanctioned evan on later stage;

(b) if so, the authorities responsible for keeping the rented buildings vacant till the CGHS dispensary is sanctioned for that area;

(c) if not, the circumstancas under which the advertisement for hiring a building in Vasant Vihar was given in Newspapers on January 1,1990 whereas the dispensary has not been sanctioned till date, and

(d) the steps being takan to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) The advertisement for hiring a building is generally given only after issue of a sanction for opening of a CGHS dispensary in a particular area. However, advertisements can be occasionally given to understand the availability and cost of hiring accommodation at specific places.

CGHS have reported that no building has been taken on rent prior to its establishment being sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Since suitable rented space was not available to house the dispensaries sanctioned at identified locations, advertisements were given for different locations considered feasible at that time, as an alternative measure. One such location was Vasant Vihar. Since then the sanctioned dispensaries have been established at the locations decided upon. The Vasant Vihar area has been covered by R.K. Puram Dispensaries of Sector VI and Sector VIII.

Violation of Supreme Court's Orders

2409. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the decision of the Supreme Court a patient once reached to a hospital, is not to be refused admission and treatment but in spite of such an order the hospitals are refusing admission/

treatment of patients as has been brought out in the Hindustan Times dated July 18, 1997 in the news item captioned "Hospitals let him bleed to death";

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to enquire into the matter and the take necessary action against the hospitals concerned so as to be a deterrent to other hospitals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Hon'ble Supreme Court in their judgement dated 6.5.1996 in Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity and others V/s States of West Bengal and another among other things have suggested remedial measures to ensure immediate medical attention and treatment to persons in real need, Government of NCT of Delhi have informed that Supreme Court directions have been circulated to the hospitals for strict compliance.

(b) and (c) The concerned hospitals/Nursing Homes have been asked by the Government of NCT of Delhi to explain the circumstances for not admitting the patient on the said date.

[Translation]

Impact of Privatisation of Medical Colleges

2410. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the process of privatisation of Medical Colleges has began qualitative differences between the candidates who got admission through competition and those who got admission through capitation fee and likely to affect the quality of medical education adversely; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Admission in medical colleges both in Government colleges and private colleges, in regulated through a common entrance test conducted/merit list prepared by the competent authority in the respective States. The Supreme Court has prescribed 15% seats in private medical colleges of NRI/foreign students and selection for the same in done by the respective colleges on merit. Charging of capitation fee is banned by the Supreme Court.

(b) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Drugs

2411. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Lucknow is becoming a major centre of drug smugglers in Uttar Pradesh in connivance and complicity of police and Insurance authorities and the smugglers smuggled only medicines of Multinational Companies brand as they are costlier than Indian ones and are in great demand in abroad; and

(b) if so, the action the Government propose to take to check the thefts of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) No such report has come to notice.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

M-11 Ballastic Missiles

2412. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether China recently denied the allegations in the US media that it had sold out M-11 ballastic missiles to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

(c) whether a high-level delegation of chinese People's Liberation Army recently visited India; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware of defence cooperation between China and Pakistan, including supply of military equipment and technology. Government continue to take all necessary measures to safeguard India's security.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A Chinese People's Liberation Army delegation led by the Commander of the Chengdu Military Region, Lt. Gen. Liao Zilong, visited India from June